

Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Township Planning Board
December 26, 2007
Avon City Hall

Call to Order: The regular meeting of the Avon Township Planning Board was called to order by Chairman Ken Mergen at 8:00 P.M.

Pledge: Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present – Gerry Kremers, Ken Mergen, Steve Plantenberg, Lowell Rushmeyer, and Stephen Saupe. Absent – Joe Scepaniak. Supervisor Leroy Gondringer was also present.

Agenda: Mergen made a motion to include the following items on the agenda: (1) discussion of Knife River's plan to wash aggregate at the Bromenshenkel gravel pit; and (2) discussion of the final version of the County Comprehensive Plan. Rushmeyer seconded. Approved unanimously.

Minutes: Mergen moved to accept the minutes of the November 28, 2007 meeting as amended. Seconded by Kremers. Approved unanimously.

Business

1. Gondringer reported that he was contacted by Knife River about their plan to start washing aggregate in the Bromenshenkel gravel pit. Gondringer had contacted the County and Don Kluemke said that since the gravel pit wasn't in shoreland district, that it is a township issue. Klemke also indicated that this is considered part of the normal mining operation in a gravel pit and probably can't be specifically prohibited. As background, Gondringer provided minutes from a June 2000 meeting during which Avon Township issued a Conditional Use Permit for mining that included the following provisions: (1) the pit would be used exclusively by Granite City; (2) use was limited to 12 hours per day; (3) the Township would conduct a site inspection after two years or as often as necessary; (4) a permanent gate would be erected; and (5) the company would provide a bond. Since a site inspection was never done, the consensus was to hold a site inspection in the spring. Gondringer will contact the company to determine when they want to start mining so that the inspection can be scheduled and completed in a timely fashion. The site inspection will help determine what shape the operation is in. If problems are identified during the inspection, then the conditional use permit can be re-opened. Another advantage of the site inspection is to educate the Board if decisions about other gravel-mining operations are required in the future. Rushmeyer will contact Mark Latterall, the mining specialist from Environmental Services, to attend the site inspection. The Board is particularly interested in the long-term plan for reclamation and master plan for when mining is finished.
2. Gondringer reported that he received the final version of the County Comprehensive Plan and that there will be a public hearing on January 22 at 10:05 AM. Plantenberg read a letter he had drafted on behalf of the Supervisors in support of the plan and the designated policy and land use areas.

3. Rushmeyer reported that the recent meeting of the Joint Powers Board went well. The meeting was focused on the Zwilling property. The provisions of the agreement between the City and Township were upheld.
4. Rushmeyer reported that the Budde property that was erroneously mapped in the City growth area will be removed.
5. The Board discussed the possibility of purchasing 3-5 acres from Tony Kierzek on County Road 9 for a salt shed and possible maintenance building. The location would be ideal because it is in the middle of the township and not surrounded by the City as is our current salt shed. This is necessary because we need a larger building to hold salt. Our current salt shed is too small to hold our entire winter's supply. In addition, Jeff Lange, who does a good job plowing for the township, has hinted that he may get out of the snow plowing business which means that we may need to find another contractor or purchase our own equipment. About half of neighboring townships have their own equipment (Collegetown, Krain). Owning our own equipment could save money in the future because we currently pay between \$30-50,000 per year for snow removal. The Board needs to run the numbers (*i.e.*, cost of new land, sale price of existing land, price of salt shed) and examine the pros & cons to see if it is worth doing. Whether we purchase snowplowing equipment, we will still need a larger salt shed. A hoop building similar to John Merdan's was suggested for this structure.

Adjournment: Rushmeyer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 PM. Mergen seconded. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Saupe
Deputy Clerk

Minutes amended & approved: January 30, 2008